

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/634,208

Examiner

Peter P. Nerbun

Applicant(s)

CARD ET AL.

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 13 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-20,22-43 and 45-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08042004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 1 specifically requires at least one needle bar, a yarn feed unit comprising a plurality of yarn feed devices each including a drive motor and a drive roll, a plurality of yarn feed controllers, and a control system for providing control signals based on programmed pattern information to said yarn feed controllers, said control system including a yarn feed unit system controller running at least one network over which said yarn feed controllers receive instructions from and communicate with said system controller.

Claim 16 and its dependent claims are allowed since claim 16 specifically requires the steps of mounting at least one yarn feed unit on the frame of a tufting machine, the yarn feed unit having a predetermined number of yarn feed devices mounted therein for feeding a series of yarns to the needles, connecting yarn feed controllers to a system controller, and feeding multiple yarns from each of the yarn feed devices, with each yarn fed through separate yarn feed tubes.

Claim 22 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 22 specifically requires a yarn feed tube bank having at least two separate tube bank sections receiving yarns from yarn feed devices of a yarn feed unit and a control system for controlling operation of the yarn feed devices based on programmed pattern information.

Claim 31 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 31 specifically requires a yarn feed distribution device having a series of yarn feed tubes arranged in separate tube bank sections each receiving one of the yarns from yarn feed devices

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and a yarn feed controller controlling operation of yarn feed devices in response to programmed pattern instructions.

Claim 40 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 40 specifically requires a tufting machine for introducing tufts of yarns into a backing material comprising at least one yarn feed unit comprising a yarn distribution device having at least one tube bank section having a series of separate yarn feed tubes through which each of the yarns are directed to selected needles wherein said yarn feed tubes are scrambled and of a number sufficient to form at least two pattern repeats across the backing material.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

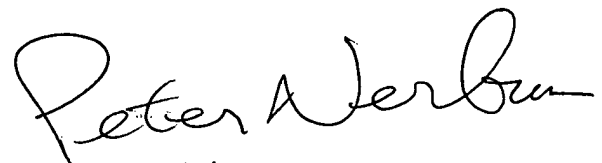
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter P. Nerbun whose telephone number is 703-308-0955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (1st Week) M-Th (2d Week).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John J. Calvert can be reached on 703-305-1025. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peter Nerbun
September 19, 2004



Peter Nerbun
Primary Examiner